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MAYOR'S OFFICE

File

Mayor Hubert Humphrey
127 City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mayor Humphrey:

I hope you have heard as many nice comments as I have in regard to the "Juvenile Delinquency" program on which you discussed the Opportunities for Youth. This is a belated note to thank you for the splendid and timely advice that you gave parents during that broadcast. We are most appreciative of your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dorothy R. Spicer
DOROTHY R. SPICER
Public Relations Director

DRS:jmm

RADIO PROGRAM - SHERIFF ED RYAN - MAYOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

RYAN - Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is the _____ in our series of broadcasts on the subject _____.
_____. Tonight I am happy to introduce to you Mayor Hubert H. Humphrey, who is known as the young man of politics. His wonderful record as a public official is not only a tribute to him. It has been called a tribute to youth. So it is particularly appropriate that we have our young Mayor here this evening to speak about the problems of young people.

H.H.H. - Thank you very much for those kind words, Ed. You know I have a lovely wife and four lovely children, and I don't particularly think of myself as a young man any more. But I still feel young, and I guess that's what counts. I know some men who are seventy years old who are still young, and I know some more who are only twenty who are already old.

Ed, I wonder if I can tell my favorite story which illustrates what I mean.

RYAN - Go ahead, Mayor Humphrey. Every program should have at least one good story.

MMH - Well, our late great Supreme Court Justice was walking down the streets of Washington one day and he saw two lovely girls coming along. He was about ninety at the time and he turned around to his friend and said, "Oh, if I were only seventy again." Justice Holmes fought

in the Civil War, and yet his decisions on the Supreme Court bench showed that he understood the modern problems of the Twentieth Century.

RYAN - What you are saying is that it is important to be young in spirit. How would you say that you can tell when someone is young in spirit?

HHH - I think the thing that shows when a man is really young is the attitude that problems can be solved, that we can get things done, that our country is still full of opportunities.

RYAN - Well, Mayor, let me ask you the question that I am really interested in tonight. Do you think our young people today are young in spirit?

HHH - I don't know whether they are or not, but I'm a little worried. I think our young people today have magnificent opportunities as individuals to live a good and full life and as members of this community, the American community and the world community.

RYAN - That's exactly the kind of encouraging statement I wanted you to make, Mayor Humphrey. Now, suppose you expand on it and spell it out a little for our young people.

HHH - First of all, I think that there are wonderful opportunities in business. As a consumer, it always surprises me what wonderful things there are to buy, and how useful they are and good to look at. You know, if I made more money as

Mayor, I'd buy more of them.

RYAN - We'll just ignore that plug to get your salary increased! I agree with you about new opportunities in business. I am thinking now of the plastics industry, of the soy bean industry, of radio and television, the new kinds of transportation--and then there is all that new furniture which is supposed to fit your back better--and, of course, there is atomic energy.

We all know and are worried because it opens up terrible possibilities for the future, but if we can master the problems of peace, it will open up wonderful possibilities for the future.

HHH - Yes, Ed, and that reminds me of what Lincoln Steffans said once. He said, "Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat its way to your door."

RYAN - Mayor, I hope we don't give the impression that we are saying that every American can become a millionaire. We are saying that there are still vast horizons for new products and new markets.

HHH - That's exactly it. As our problems increase, we multiply the opportunity to serve each other and ourselves. And I am thinking now particularly of the American Trade Union movement.

RYAN - I have been thinking of that too. I know we both believe that the trade union movement is here to stay, and that it represents a healthy and vital part of our community

life. I know that it ~~has~~ come a long way, and that it has still got a long way to go. Its opportunities to serve its members and the community are practically unlimited.

HHH - Yes, Ed, I can think of a job the trade union movement needs to do in workers' education. I can think of what it needs to do to develop better techniques of labor-management relations. I can think of the job it needs to do to develop a program of better understanding of the community it lives in. And I can also think of the job the community needs to do to develop a better understanding of the trade union movement.

Whether as leaders or simply members, trade unionists have much to give our society.

RYAN - Mayor Humphrey, I have been ~~moniam~~ wondering what Father Hennepin would say if he came to our State of Minnesota today. You know, Father Hennepin was a French ~~moniamist~~ Jesuit missionary who came to Minneapolis in about 1680, and I wonder if he would think that everything possible has been accomplished and that there is nothing left to be done.

HHH - We could even go farther back than that, Ed, and wonder what those brave Norwegians who first sailed and, we believe, landed somewhere around Minnesota, would feel if they saw our thriving State today.

RYAN - And all our early German and Scandinavian immigrants-- they must have felt that when they cleared their land, built their farm houses and reaped their crops--they must have felt that that was the end of progress.

HHH - Yes, I suppose all of our people in every decade have always felt that the job was done.

RYAN - But the peculiar thing--and I think this is the American attitude--is that we always know that there is plenty more to do and we keep pushing ahead.

HHH - That is strange but true. We have a tendency to rest on our laurels, and yet, at the same time, we keep pushing ahead. I guess you would call it a kind of split personality.

RYAN - And while we are speaking of Father Hennepin and the Norwegian sailors and the German and Scandinavian immigrants, we ought to tell our young people of all races, nationalities and creeds that America is the land of opportunity for all people.

HHH - Yes, our Declaration of Independence says that all men are equal, and each one of them has the right to happiness. I think we Americans have always believed that but sometimes we have been too busy or too lazy to practice what we preach. Day by day we are making a better record, and I think our young people are going to outdo their fathers in this area of human relations.

RYAN - Well, Mayor Humphrey, I know that you have been twisting and turning, just waiting for me to ask you a question about the thing closest to your heart--that is, the opportunities for young people in local government.

HHH - I have been waiting, Ed. But, first, I want to explain why I think local government is so important. I believe that local government is the foundation of democracy, and unless we build a good foundation the whole building will crumble. Unless we can make democracy work in our own back yards, we can't make it work in Washington or the United Nations.

RYAN - Can I just interrupt you a second there, Mayor? Wouldn't you say that it is true that local government doesn't have the glamor or the sex appeal that national and international government has?

HHH - Yes, that's true. But our young people ought to realize that at the same time that they think and talk about world government they ought to be concerned with good government at home. You know the highways of the world are fed by the main streets of our cities and villages.

RYAN - Well, Mayor Humphrey, what can a young man or woman do for local government?

HHH - Well, first off, a young man or woman can train himself to become a public servant working for the public good--

that is, he can become a technician or a civil servant. Modern government is a complicated and involved business and we need thousands and thousands of trained people dedicated to serving the public.

RYAN - How about the young man or woman who doesn't want to be a civil servant, but who still wants to do something for his local government?

HHH - That's an even more important group. In America we often feel that politicians are bad people, and that good people shouldn't participate in politics.

RYAN - Say, while you're talking about that, Mayor, I read a poll in a Minneapolis paper some months ago which says that an overwhelming majority of American young people don't want to become politicians. That would confirm your last statement.

HHH: - Yes, that's what I'm talking about. The reason we have bad politicians is because not enough good people enter politics. Some people think they save their good names by not participating in politics, but what they do instead is ruin the good name of the whole community.

RYAN - ~~Mayor~~ You've been saying, Mayor Humphrey, that local government offers a challenge to our young people. Can you give me some specific examples of the job that still has to be done?

HHH -



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